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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

MONDAY, JULY 14, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Gen. Sylvester awaits Washington's approval to release
statement - Hurriyet
U.S. will voice 'regret,' not 'apology' over
Suleymaniye arrests - Turkiye
Goodwill visit by 'Crazy Arab' - Sabah
Ankara shows 'red card' to Talabani - Turkiye
The day Baghdad fell declared official holiday -
Milliyet
CIA, U.S. Administration's scapegoat - Hurriyet 7/13
Half of Americans think Bush is a liar - Milliyet 7/13
Democrats press Bush to reveal the truth on Iraqi WMD -
Milliyet 7/13
Incirlik Commander Col. Felman: Turks our best ally -
Milliyet 7/12
Blair voices support for Turkey's EU drive - Vatan

OPINION MAKERS

Bremer convenes interim Iraqi government - Radikal
Bremer ready to share troubles in Iraq - Cumhuriyet
7/13
Americans launch 4th operation to break Iraqi
resistance - Cumhuriyet
Sezer letter to Bush: Suleymaniye raid unacceptable -
Cumhuriyet
'Pinocchio' Blair - Radikal 7/13
Denktas offers Varosha in return for access to Nicosia
airport - Radikal 7/12
Greeks cold to Denktas proposal - Zaman 7/13
Weston: Annan Plan the sole path to Cyprus solution -
Zaman

BRIEFING

Turkish-U.S. commission for Suleymaniye detentions:
Lieutenant-General John Sylvester paid an inspection
visit to Kerkuk and Suleymaniye on Friday. The
Americans were forced to withdraw their accusations
against Turkish special forces in the region, including
the allegation of an assassination attempt against
Kirkuk's Kurdish governor. General Sylvester came back
to Ankara on Sunday, and meetings of the joint
commission resumed. A joint statement by the
commission is expected on Monday. The American
delegation is awaiting Washington's approval to release
the statement, dailies report. General Sylvester has
admitted that the methods used by U.S. soldiers in
detaining the Turks were wrong. The U.S. side is to
launch an investigation against its troops involved in
the raid. Papers also say that President Sezer will
send a letter on the issue to President Bush via U.S.
Ambassador Robert Pearson. Sezer's letter will
denounce the mistreatment of Turkish troops. Prime
Minister Erdogan said that the U.S. side had fulfilled
all promises made by Vice President Cheney following
the arrests. Meanwhile, papers write that Ankara,
believing Talabani to be behind the Suleymaniye
incident, has refused to renew the PUK leader's Turkish
passport.
General Abizaid due to Turkey: The new CENTCOM
Chairman, General John Abizaid, will stop over in
Turkey on his way to Qatar later this week, "Sabah"
reports. General Abizaid will extend an 'olive branch'

to Ankara to repair the strain over the Suleymaniye arrests. The paper quotes an official from the U.S. Administration as saying that the Abizaid visit could open a new chapter in bilateral relations.

Erdogan conveys Bush message to Assad: Prime Minister Erdogan conveyed a message by President Bush to Syrian President Assad in a telephone conversation on Friday. Erdogan reportedly urged Syria to make a reliable and convincing effort to combat terrorism. Assad promised decisive action in the fight against terror, and said that the Syrian prime minister would visit Turkey on July 28 to discuss the matter in detail.

Washington Institute report on Turkey: Saturday's "Hurriyet" carries excerpts of a report by the Washington Institute (WI) drawing attention to rising anti-American sentiment in Turkey. The report urges Ankara to work together with the U.S. to eliminate the PKK/KADEK presence in Northern Iraq. Ankara should see the Iraqi Kurds as part of the 'Turkish family,' the report argues. WI also warns that Congressional approval of a resolution on the Armenian genocide would worsen ties with Turkey.

Cyprus: In a letter to the UN, Turkish Cypriot leader Denktas offered a new package of confidence-building measures. Denktas suggests that both Turkish and Greek Cypriots should use the abandoned town of Varosha and have access to the international airport in Nicosia. In exchange, Greek Cypriot vessels and planes will be given access to Turkish harbors and airports, and Turkey will launch free trade activities with the Greek Cypriots. Papers believe that the Greek Cypriot side is unlikely to abandon the UN-sponsored peace plan, which has firm EU backing.

EDITORIAL OPINION: US-Turkish Relations/Iraq

"The Day After"

Asli Aydintasbas wrote in mass appeal Sabah (7/14): "The Suleymaniye crisis stemmed largely from US commanders in CENTCOM acting on their own initiative. This is not the first crisis between the Turkish military and CENTCOM. There is ongoing mistrust on both sides. However, the high-ranking military and political authorities on both the Turkish and American sides are working assiduously to find a settlement to the crisis. On the US side, very important names including Cheney, Wolfowitz and Powell consider the US action in Suleymaniye to be a mistake, and take Turkey's objections as justifiable arguments. Of course, they don't make these views public. In fact, the parameters of Turkish-American relations have changed in post-war Iraq. Turkey has lost its position as indispensable for the US. The new parameters will be developed based on the level of cooperation on the Iraq issue."

"The Wings of Pentagon and Turkey"

Ali Aslan wrote from Washington in the Islamist-intellectual Zaman (7/14): "It is obvious that the Pentagon was by-passed in the Suleymaniye incident. There are two wings at the Pentagon -- the civilian wing and the military wing. . Leaders of the military wing are so upset with Turkey because of the its rejection of US troop deployments that they don't even want to hear Turkey's name mentioned. This sentiment will likely continue for at least another 5 to 10 years. . The civilian wing, on the other hand, is under the control of the 'neo-conservatives.' They seem to be willing to move on with Turkey and put their disappointment behind them. Their overall attitude about Turkey coincides with the State Department's moderate approach. . Both wings of the Pentagon have something in common: They both want to see the Iraqi Kurds have more influence and more representation -- not only in the north, but throughout Iraq. They would like to keep Turkey out of northern Iraq to the extent possible as long as Turkey resists the US vision for the Kurds. The neo-cons, however, do not approve of the way the Turkish soldiers were treated in the Suleymaniye incident. So in this particular event, it is the military wing of the Pentagon that should to be blamed."